

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted with applicant's representatives on January 25, 2011. The present amendment and arguments are submitted further to the interview and in response to an office action issued on December 15, 2010. The application contains claims 43, 48-50, 73-76, 79-90, 92 and 94-97. Claim 43 is amended herewith.

Summary of Interview

During the interview, the following rejection was discussed:

Claims 43, 48, 73-77, 79, 81-84, 86-89, 92 and 94-97 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (US 5,503,616).

Applicants' representative argued that Jones does not teach an external sheath surrounding the internal sheath as recited in independent claim 48. The Examiner agreed that Jones does not teach circumferential surrounding of the internal sheath and requested clarification of the claim language. Applicants therefore amend claim 1 make explicit what was already implicit, as follows "an external sheath circumferentially surrounding the internal sheath".

It was agreed that this amendment overcomes the rejection on claim 43. The rest of the claims are patentable at least by virtue of their patentable parent claim 43.

The office action further included the following rejections:

Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Martone et al. (US 6,740,030);

Claim 80 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Stefanchik et al. (US 7,431,694); and

Claims 85 and 90 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Stefanchik et al.

Claims 50, 80, 85 and 90 all depend from claim 43 and are patentable at least by virtue of patentable claim 43.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and arguments, applicants submit that independent claim 43 and dependent claims 43, 48-50, 73-76, 79-90, 92 and 94-97 are patentable over the cited art. Notice thereof is respectfully awaited. Should the Examiner find any new reasons for rejection of the claims, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone prior to issuing a final action.

Respectfully submitted,

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